



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Committee Bill No. 4

LCO No. 4821



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY VOTING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2014*) (a) As used in this
2 section, "election day" means the day on which a regular election, as
3 defined in section 9-1 of the general statutes, that is a state election, as
4 defined in section 9-1 of the general statutes, is held, and "early voting"
5 means voting in accordance with the provisions of this section.

6 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 146 of the general
7 statutes, each municipality shall provide an opportunity for electors
8 residing in such municipality to cast ballots in person starting the
9 eighth calendar day prior to election day in accordance with the
10 provisions of this section. Such electors shall be permitted to vote at
11 the town hall or other municipal office building, as provided in the
12 warning under section 9-225 of the general statutes, as amended by
13 this act.

14 (c) Election officials shall permit early voting during all hours in
15 which the town hall or other municipal office building being used for

16 early voting is open, and such voting shall also be allowed (1) until at
17 least eight o'clock p.m. on at least one day of such voting, and (2) on at
18 least one weekend day from nine o'clock a.m. to five o'clock p.m. Any
19 elector standing in line at the time that early voting closes for the day
20 shall be permitted to vote and no elector who is not in line at such time
21 shall be permitted to enter such line. Hours designated for voting in
22 accordance with this subsection shall be specified in the warning
23 under section 9-225 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

24 (d) Each elector voting under this section shall be provided with the
25 ballot that he or she would be voting on if such elector were voting on
26 election day at the polling place assigned to the elector for voting on
27 election day. The registrars of voters shall ensure that a sufficient
28 number of ballots is available to accommodate each such elector
29 residing in any voting district of the municipality.

30 (e) After the elector has voted his or her ballot, the elector shall place
31 the ballot in a secured ballot depository receptacle. At the time
32 designated by the registrars of voters and noticed to election officials,
33 the registrars of voters shall transport such receptacle containing such
34 ballots to the area, either district or central, where absentee ballots are
35 counted and such ballots shall be counted by the election officials
36 present at such location. A section of the head moderator's return shall
37 show the number of such ballots received from electors. The registrars
38 of voters shall seal a copy of the vote tally for such ballots in a
39 depository envelope with such ballots and store such depository
40 envelope with the other election results materials. The depository
41 envelope shall be preserved by the registrars of voters for the period of
42 time required to preserve counted ballots for elections. The provisions
43 of the general statutes and regulations concerning procedures relating
44 to the custody, control and counting of absentee ballots shall apply as
45 nearly as possible, to the custody, control and counting of the ballots
46 under this section.

47 (f) Election officials for early voting shall be selected in the same

48 manner as provided under chapter 146 of the general statutes. Before
49 each period of early voting, the registrars of voters and certified head
50 moderator shall instruct the election officials in accordance with the
51 provisions of section 9-249 of the general statutes, as amended by this
52 act.

53 (g) The process of voting under section 9-261 of the general statutes
54 shall apply as nearly as possible to the process of early voting
55 conducted under this section. During all hours of early voting, at least
56 one election official shall be stationed approximately three to four feet
57 from the voting tabulator to regulate the submission of the elector's
58 ballot.

59 (h) No person shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to the
60 candidacy of another or himself or herself or on behalf of or in
61 opposition to any question being submitted at the election, or loiter or
62 peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another
63 person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in
64 use as an entry to the town hall or other municipal building used for
65 early voting during the hours of early voting or in any corridor,
66 passageway or other approach leading from any such outside entrance
67 to such location or in any room opening upon any such corridor,
68 passageway or approach.

69 (i) No ballot cast during the period of early voting pursuant to this
70 section shall be counted prior to the closing of the polls on election
71 day.

72 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2014*) The Secretary of the State
73 and the registrars of voters of each municipality shall ensure that no
74 elector, as defined in section 9-1 of the general statutes, stands in line
75 to vote for longer than fifteen minutes for any election, as defined in
76 section 9-1 of the general statutes, or any primary, as defined in section
77 9-372 of the general statutes, without having an opportunity to cast his
78 or her ballot.

79 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 9-225 of the general statutes is
80 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
81 *January 1, 2014*):

82 (a) The town clerk or assistant town clerk of each town shall warn
83 the electors therein to meet on the Tuesday following the first Monday
84 in November in the even-numbered years, at six o'clock a.m., or that
85 any such elector may participate in early voting in accordance with
86 section 1 of this act, which warning shall be given by publication in a
87 newspaper having a general circulation in such town, or towns in the
88 case of a joint publication under subsection (b) of this section, not more
89 than fifteen nor less than five days previous to [holding] the first day
90 of early voting for such election. The clerk in each town shall, in the
91 warning for such election, give notice of the time and the location of
92 the polling place in the town and the location and hours of early
93 voting, and in towns divided into voting districts, of the time and the
94 location of the polling place in each district, at which such election will
95 be held. The town clerk shall record each such warning.

96 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 9-229 of the general statutes is
97 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
98 *January 1, 2014*):

99 (a) The registrars of voters in the several towns and, in towns where
100 there are different registrars for different voting districts, the registrars
101 of voters in such districts shall appoint the moderators of regular and
102 special state and municipal elections in their respective towns or
103 districts. For the purpose of providing a reserve group of persons who
104 may serve as moderators, the registrars shall designate alternate
105 moderators from among those persons chosen as official checkers, or
106 tabulator tenders, in the following minimum numbers: In towns with
107 one or more but not exceeding three voting districts, one alternate
108 moderator; in towns with four or more but not exceeding eight voting
109 districts, two alternate moderators; in towns with more than eight
110 voting districts, a number of alternate moderators equal to one-fourth

111 of the number of voting districts rounded off to the nearest multiple of
112 four. In case the registrars fail to agree in the choice of a moderator or
113 alternate moderator, the choice shall be determined between such
114 registrars by lot. In the case of a primary, the registrar, as defined in
115 section 9-372, shall so appoint such moderators and alternate
116 moderators. Moderators and alternate moderators shall be appointed
117 at least twenty days before the election or primary, except that any
118 moderator and alternate moderator appointed to moderate early
119 voting in accordance with section 1 of this act, shall be appointed at
120 least twenty days before the first day of early voting. The registrars
121 shall submit a list of the names of such moderators and alternate
122 moderators to the municipal clerk, which list shall be made available
123 for public inspection by such clerk. Each person appointed to serve as
124 moderator or alternate moderator shall be certified by the Secretary of
125 the State in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this
126 section, except as provided in subsection (d) of this section or section 9-
127 436.

128 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 9-249 of the general statutes is
129 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
130 *January 1, 2014*):

131 (a) Before each election, the registrars of voters and the certified
132 head moderator shall instruct the election officials. [Any]
133 Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or of any special
134 act, [to the contrary notwithstanding,] election officials shall be
135 appointed at least twenty days before the election, except that any
136 election official appointed for early voting in accordance with section 1
137 of this act shall be appointed at least twenty days before the first day of
138 early voting and except as provided in section 9-229, as amended by
139 this act. The registrars of voters and the certified head moderator shall
140 instruct each election official who is to serve in a voting district in
141 which a voting tabulator is to be used in the use of the tabulator and
142 the election official's duties in connection therewith, and for the
143 purpose of giving such instruction, such instructors shall call such

Statement of Purpose:

To provide for early voting for regular state elections and to ensure that no elector stands in line for longer than fifteen minutes before being permitted to cast his or her ballot.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. WILLIAMS, 29th Dist.; REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD, 94th Dist.

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